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Public Health Office,
32 South Street,
BRIDPORT.
October, 1949.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE BRIDPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR
1948, INCLUDING STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD
1939 - 1948.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.....	Adam Armit, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.....	Robert N. Armstrong, M.Inst., M. & Cy.E., A.R.S.I.
Veterinary Surgeon (Part-time).....	K.I. Marshall, M.R.C.V.S.
Clerk to the Medical Officer.....	Miss J. Gurd.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	686.5.
Registrar General's estimate of population ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,948.
No. of inhabited houses (according to the Rate Books at end of 1948),,	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,860.
Rateable Value..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£44,388.
Sum represented by a penny rate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£181.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births. M F

All Births.	43	61	
Legitimate.	42	57	Birth Rate per 1,000 resident
Illegitimate.	1	4	population - 17.48.

Total Births - 104.

Still Births. M F

All Still Births.	1	-	
Legitimate.	1	-	Still Birth Rate per 1,000
Illegitimate.	-	-	resident population - 0.16.

Total Still Births - 1.

Deaths of Infants under One year of Age.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Total.	1	2	
Legitimate.	1	1	Death Rate all Infants per 1,000
Illegitimate.	-	1	notified Births - 28.84.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes..... Nil.

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births..... Nil.

Deaths at all Ages and from all Causes.

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	
Total Deaths - 89.	37	52	Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population - 14.96.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1. Typhoid & Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Syphilitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10. Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Inf. Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Cancer of Buc.Gav. & Oesoph(M). Uterus(F).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14. Cancer of Stomach & Duodenum	2	3	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
15. Cancer of Breast	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. Cancer of all other sites	9	2	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
17. Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18. Intracranial Vascular Lesions	18	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19. Heart Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21. Bronchitis	5	2	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
22. Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (Under 2 years)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases	2	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29. Puerperal & Post Abortive Sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Premature Birth	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Con.Mal.Birth Injury. Inf.Disease	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
33. Suicide	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
34. Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35. Other Violent Causes	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
36. All Other Causes	16	19	11	12	12	9	11	5	4	5
TOTALS:	94	108	81	94	104	93	83	40	41	50
	93	100	81	94	104	93	83	40	41	50
	39	37	52	52	50	39	37	52	50	39

OTHER VITAL STATISTICS.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Population.....	5908	5903	6121	6115	5877	5939	6003	6263	6374	5948
Rateable Value.....	£43584	£43833	£43959	£43954	£43597	£43882	£43927	£44318	£44718	£44388
Estimated Produce of Penny Rate.....	£164	£172	£172	£178	£175	£175	£176	£178	£176	£181
<u>BIRTHS:-</u>										
Live Births.....	79	85	85	101	81	101	86	107	124	104
Legitimate.....	74	84	82	95	74	93	75	101	118	99
Illegitimate.....	2	1	3	6	7	8	11	6	6	5
Still Births.....	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	4	1
Live Birth Rate.....	13.4	14.4	13.9	16.5	13.8	17.0	14.3	17.1	19.5	17.5
Live Birth Rate (Eng. & Wales).....	15.0	14.6	14.2	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5	17.9
<u>DEATHS:-</u>										
Total Deaths.....	94	108	81	94	104	93	83	81	89	89
Death Rate.....	12.4	14.8	13.1	15.4	17.7	15.7	13.8	12.9	14.0	15.0
Death Rate (Eng. & Wales).....	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0	10.8
<u>INFANT MORTALITY:-</u>										
Deaths under 1 year.....	3	2	4	4	4	4	2	3	3	3
Infantile Death Rate.....	37.5	46.5	43.5	49.8	49.4	39.6	46	23.3	28.0	24.2
Infantile Death Rate (Eng. & Wales).....	50	55	49	49	49	46	46	43	41	34
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY:-</u>										
Maternal Deaths.....	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maternal Mortality Rate.....	-	-	10.54	9.9	11.9	-	-	-	-	-
Maternal Mortality Rate(Eng.& Wales).....	2.82	2.16	2.23	2.01	2.29	1.93	1.79	1.43	1.17	1.02

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLIES.

All the area is supplied by the Bridport Water Works Company, who are empowered by their Act of Parliament of 1872 to take from their springs at Litton Cheney a maximum of 320,000 gallons per day, but at times these springs do not yield this amount. Because of this drop in yield, and the height of the Bothenhampton reservoirs, 196 feet O.D., during the summer months shutting off at nights becomes necessary to enable the reservoirs to fill, and because of the fact that the Borough varies between 30 feet and 150 feet O.D., the static head available in some parts is very small, and it is clear that the supply is inadequate both as to pressure and quantity.

A chlorinating plant is installed at Litton Cheney, for continuous chlorination.

19 Samples were taken for analyses; of these, 12 were from the main and these were satisfactory; the remaining 7 were samples of well water and only 1 was satisfactory.

Approximately 145 houses in the Borough take their water from outside taps.

The West Dorset Joint Provisional Water Committee, representing Bridport Borough and the Rural Districts of Bridport and Beaminster, were asked by the Bridport Borough Water Sub-Committee to obtain from Bridport Water Works Company a price at which they would sell the Undertaking, and the County Council were asked to indicate their intentions in this matter. In February, the County Council adopted the report of its Public Health Committee, "that the Bridport Water Works Company be asked to agree to a valuation of their Undertaking being made, and failing agreement to this course the Minister of Health be approached with a view to ensuring the acquisition of this Undertaking without further delay". In June, the Ministry of Health wrote saying that the Minister was concerned about the lack of progress made by the Joint Committee in furthering the proposal to set up a Joint Water Board for the area, and again suggested a meeting at the office of the Ministry. In July, representatives from the three Councils visited the Ministry of Health to discuss the proposed water scheme for West Dorset. In September, the Bridport Town Council decided to withdraw from the West Dorset Provisional Joint Water Committee and approached the Bridport Rural District Council to form a Joint Water Committee or Board with a view to taking over the Bridport Water Works Company. In November, the Council were informed that the Bridport Rural District Council had agreed to withdraw from the West Dorset Joint Provisional Water Committee and were prepared to join with the Bridport Town Council in applying for powers to form a Joint Water Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

As stated in previous Reports, all the crude sewage is run out to sea at West Bay through an outfall on the East Beach, with the result that the latter is in an unsatisfactory condition because of sewage pollution. Results of float tests taken by the Consulting Engineers, and circulated to the Council, shewed that there was no off-shore current which could take the sewage out to sea. The Consulting Engineers have been asked to prepare a report on sewage disintegration which system is in force in Poole and Bournemouth, and when this report is received the Ministry of Health will be consulted on their views regarding this system.

During the year 3,795 feet of new drains were put into the Council's housing estate, 1,110 feet into private conversions and new premises, and 474 feet into alterations to old premises. 7 Cases of defective drains were notified to the owners and the necessary work done.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

2,024 loads of refuse, representing 2,500 tons, were collected from approximately 2,150 dustbins. The new Karrier Motor Lorry which was first put into use in August 1947 is proving satisfactory, and is manned with a driver and two men. During the year 40 tons of tins and 82 tons of paper were salvaged and baled, and 13 tons of miscellaneous salvage were disposed of. The remainder of the refuse is burned in the Destructor where 4 men are continually employed.

The Destructor is now 43 years old and the Council may have to consider replacing it in the very near future. Street cleansing is carried out by 4 sweepers with street orderly carts and a total of 4.31 miles are swept daily, 1.55 miles three times weekly, 2.32 miles twice weekly and 1.18 miles once weekly.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

No. of Inspections for all purposes.....	102.
No. of Informal Notices.....	28.
No. of Statutory Notices.....	1.
No. of Inspections of Shops.....	12.
ditto Foodshops.....	16.
ditto Bakehouses.....	9.
ditto Houses.....	37.
ditto Drains.....	12.
Disinfection of houses after Inf. Diseases..	9.
Miscellaneous Inspections.....	7.

Eradication of Vermin.

No premises were dealt with during the year.

Petroleum, Spirit and Carbide.

No. of Licences granted during 1948.....	27.
No. of Inspections.....	Nil.

Camping Sites.

There is only one Camping Site in the area and this is at West Bay and is owned by the Council who employ a full-time Camp Supervisor during the Season. Water is supplied to the Camp from a series of stand-pipes and there are water-closets and shower-baths installed. Facilities are also given for gas cooking. During the year, there were accommodated in the Camp Field, 3,861 persons, 346 caravans, 637 tents, 505 cars and 120 motor-cycles. 151 beds and 128 chairs were loaned out to the Campers of whom 509 took advantage of the hot shower-baths.

Rodent Control.

A full-time Rodent Officer was employed, except during the summer months. Using the block system of control he estimates that approximately 650 rats were destroyed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

No. of persons on Register at end of 1948.....	14.
No. of Dairy Farms and other Dairy premises on Register....	10.
No. of Dairy Farms Inspected.....	2.
No. of Inspections.....	2.
No. of Notices Served.....	Nil.
No. of Milk shops Inspected.....	3.
No. of Inspections.....	3.
No. of Notices Served.....	Nil.

37 Milk samples were taken for analyses. 26 Passed the Reductase test and 11 failed.

Ice Cream.

Frequent visits were paid to premises making and selling Ice Cream, and where samples were found on analyses to be unsatisfactory, the whole chain of the manufacturing process was inspected to find out where the weak link lay. 24 Samples were taken for analyses, and of these 11 were in Grade 1; 5 in Grade 2; 3 in Grade 3; and 5 in Grade 4.

No. of persons on Register at end of 1948:-

Manufacture of Ice Cream.....	3.
Storage and Sale of Ice Cream.....	19.
No. of Ice Cream premises inspected during 1948.....	14.
No. of Inspections of Ice Cream premises during 1948.....	20.
No. of Notices (I.C.H.T.R.47) served.....	Nil.

Meat Inspection.

All the slaughtering for West Dorset takes place at a Slaughter House just outside the Borough. A Veterinary Surgeon, appointed by the four districts concerned, is responsible for the inspection of carcases on every day that slaughtering takes place.

The only report received from the Veterinary Surgeon covers the period 1st March - 30th September 1948 when 512 Cattle; 892 Sheep; 115 Calves; and 7 Pigs were killed, and the following table shows the meat which he condemned.

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Carcases.	7 Fore Quarters. 2 Hind " 1 Carcase.	3.	1.	2 Fore Quarters. 1 Carcase.
Livers.	99 Whole Livers. 67 Part "	45.	1.	1.
Lungs.	64.	12.	1.	1.
Heads and Tongues.	33.	6.	1.	1.
Hearts.	3.	6.	1.	1.
Skirts.	6.	-	-	-
Melts.	4.	6.	1.	1.
Guts.	5.	1.	1.	1.
Tripes.	6.	-	-	-
Fat.	98 lbs.	-	-	-

The Vet. also reports that "all animals slaughtered at Skilling have been inspected prior to leaving the slaughterhouse, and a schedule of condemned parts is given above. The slaughterhouse has been conducted in an efficient manner and every reasonable precaution taken to avoid injury and distress to stock awaiting slaughter. The salvage of various glands, etc. for pharmaceutical purposes has continued and the removal of waste products and fat is satisfactory".

Condemnation of Foodstuffs.

16 Visits were made to food premises, and the following foodstuffs were condemned,

Vegetables and Fruit....	230 tins.	Vegetables and Fruit....	15 lbs.
Meat.....	83 tins.	Meat.....	542 lbs.
Fish.....	132 tins.	Fish.....	30 lbs.
Jams.....	34 lbs.	Sweets.....	12 lbs.
Soup.....	4218 tins.	Bread.....	100 loaves.
Milk.....	178 tins.	Cheese.....	11 lbs.

HOUSING.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

No. Inspected for housing defects.....	37.
No. of Inspections.....	45.
No. found to be unfit for human habitation.....	Nil.

Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice.

No. rendered fit in consequence of Informal action by the Local Authority.....	Nil.
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Action under Statutory Powers.

Housing Act 1936. Sections 9, 10 and 16.

No. of houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.....	1.
No. which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:-	
(a) By Owner.....	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner.....	1.

Housing Act 1936. Sections 11 and 13.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	Nil.
No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	Nil.

Housing Act 1936. Section 12.

No. of Closing Orders.....	Nil.
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Public Health Acts.

No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	8.
No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:-	
(a) By Owners.....	8.
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners.....	Nil.

Re-Housing.

No. of houses re-constructed into Flats.....	1.
No. of families re-housed.....	1.
No. of persons re-housed.....	3.
No. of new houses completed:-	
(a) By Local Authority.....	40.
(b) By Other Bodies.....	8.
No. of new houses completed since the War:-	
(a) By Local Authority.....	86.
(b) By Other Bodies.....	22.
No. of families in new houses.....	48.
No. of persons in new Houses.....	174.
No. of new houses in course of construction:-	
(a) By Local Authority.....	64.
(b) By Other Bodies.....	2.
No. of new houses proposed.....	200.
Building sites acquired during 1948.....	Nil.
No. of houses owned by the Local Authority.....	378.
Approximate No. of working class houses in the district.....	1614.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no major outbreak of Infectious Diseases during the year except Measles, 85 cases of which were notified.

From 5th July 1948, when the National Health Services Act came into operation, the control of the West Dorset Infectious Diseases' Hospital was vested in the Regional Hospital Board, and the responsibility for Ambulance Services and Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination was taken over by the Dorset County Council.

Diphtheria Immunisation as at
30th June 1948.

The number of children who have completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time up to the 30th June 1948 are as follows:-

Age Group. Year Born.	Under 1. 1948.	1. 1947.	2. 1946.	3. 1945.	4. 1944.	TOTAL.
	5.	81.	76.	98.	98.	358.

Age Group. Year Born.	5 - 9 Years.					
	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	TOTAL.
	74.	90.	77.	77.	71.	389.

Age Group. Year Born.	10 - 14 Years.					
	1938.	1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.	TOTAL.
	54.	52.	58.	88.	78.	330.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1948.

DISEASE.	Total	Under											Total	Total	Dths. in
	Cases at	1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	& among	Cases re-Hosp. of	move to persons
	all ages. Year.												moved to persons		
Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.....	4	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever.....	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Opthalmnia Neonatorum.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
⑨ Dysentery.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia.....	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary "	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles.....	85	3	8	8	9	47	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.....	14	3	2	2	4	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	114	6	11	11	14	9	49	1	-	5	3	2	3	1	6
															1

Total
Dths.
Dths. in
Over-Notif-
ied Cases. District. to Dist.

From the Schools were reported: 7 Whooping Cough, 11 Mumps, 36 Chicken Pox, 74 Measles, and 1 Scarlet Fever.

C - Cases. D - Deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1939 - 1948.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	<u>New Cases notified</u> <u>during 1948.</u>				<u>Deaths during 1948.</u>			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35-45	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
55-65	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & Over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	2	3	-	1	-	2	-	1

Particulars of Deaths:-

Pulmonary. Female aged 22 years. Duration of Disease - 1 year.

Pulmonary. Female aged 40 years. Duration of Disease - 1 year.

Non-Pulmonary. Female aged 41 years. Occupation - Land Worker.

Duration of Disease - 3 years.

New Cases and Mortality 1939 - 1948.

	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1939.	5	3	-	1	2	1	-	-
1940.	4	3	1	1	3	1	-	1
1941.	2	2	1	4	2	3	-	1
1942.	7	3	1	1	1	2	-	1
1943.	-	2	2	2	2	3	1	1
1944.	6	2	2	-	-	1	1	-
1945.	4	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
1946.	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
1947.	4	4	2	1	2	-	1	-
1948.	2	3	-	1	-	2	-	1

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M	F	M	F
Total cases on Register at end of 1947.....	17	10	4	4
New cases notified during 1948.....	2	3	-	1
Cases from other areas now living in the District.....	2	2	-	-
Deaths during 1948.....	-	2	-	1
Removals from District into other areas....	1	2	-	-
Total cases cured.....	1	-	-	1
Total on Register at end of 1948.....	19	11	4	3

